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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 10/614,631 | 07/07/2003 | Darrel Sutton | THOLAM P203US | 7826 |
| 20210 | 7590 | 07/16/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C. | | | | PHAM, MINH CHAU THI |
| FOURTH FLOOR | | | | ART UNIT |
| 500 N. COMMERCIAL STREET | | | | PAPER NUMBER |
| MANCHESTER, NH 03101-1151 | | | | 1724 |

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

VTR

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/614,631 | SUTTON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Minh-Chau T. Pham | 1724 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/20/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toreklsson et al (6,562,095 B1), in view of either Allan (4,233,044) or Northcutt (6,554,880 B1).

Toreklsson et al disclose a method and an apparatus of preventing air bypass in a filter bank (col. 1, lines 12-22; col. 2, lines 46-55) comprising the steps of providing a filter bank having filter track which receives filters (3) in side by side relation (see Fig. 3), and providing rectangular filter panels (3) each having an opposed pair for first sides, a opposed pair of second sides, two opposed faces and a width between the two opposed faces. Claims 1 and 2 differ from the disclosure of Toreklsson et al in that there is a

step of providing "I" shaped connectors equal to the width of the filter panels. Allan discloses a filter bank (col. 2, lines 62-68) with a plurality of filter panels (28) and a T-shaped connector (34) wherein the filter panels (28) are attached to the connector (34) of which the peripheral members may be sealably connected to the walls of the housing (14) (see col. 4, lines 10-11). Northcutt discloses the connector (64) can be "I" shaped or any other shape as desired wherein the connector (64) is connected to the filter panel (60) preventing air bypass between the sides of filter panel and the filter can be "wedged" to provide effective sealing of the filter panel (see col. 6, lines 54-60). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a sealable connector as taught by either Allan or Northcutt between the filter panels (3) of Toreklsson et al since the sealable connector would provide effective sealing of the peripheral edges of filter panels thus preventing air leakage of bypass therethrough.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Myers (2,252,724) discloses an air filter.
- Pick (5,059,218) discloses a supporting filter frame.
- Chase et al (6,389,994 B1) disclose a front panel assembly.
- Rivera et al (6,447,566 B1) disclose an air filtration system.
- Toyoshima (6,485,538 B1) discloses an air conditioning air filter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
July 13, 2004